Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

		to the state of th
In the Matter of)	
)	
Federal State Joint Board)	
on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
)	
Report to Congress)	

COMMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION

Howard J. Symons Michelle M. Mundt Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20004 202/434-7300 Daniel L. Brenner Neal M. Goldberg David L. Nicoll 1724 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 202/775-3664

Counsel for the National Cable Television Association, Inc.

January 26, 1998

nm recisions reduced CHY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	rage
INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY	2
I. THE COMMISSION'S INTERPRETATION OF 'INFORMATION SERVICE' AND 'TELECOMMUNICATIONS' IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAIN LANGUAGE AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE 1996 ACT	4
A. Internet Access and On-line Services Are Information Services Because They Include the Capability for Generating, Acquiring, Processing, Storing, and Retrieving Information	5
B. The Commission's Interpretation of Telecommunications and Information Services Is Consistent With the Distinction Between Basic and Enhanced Services	7
C. Classifying Internet Access and On-line Services as Information Services Is Consistent With the Broad Consensus that Internet Services Should Remain Unregulated	8
II. THE COMMISSION'S DECISIONS REGARDING THE ENTITIES REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSAL SERVICE ARE CONSISTENT WITH AND SERVE THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 254	
CONCLUSION	15

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

n the Matter of)	
)	
Federal State Joint Board)	
on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
)	
Report to Congress)	

COMMENTS OF THE NATIONAL CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION

The National Cable Television Association ("NCTA"), by its attorneys, hereby submits its comments in response to the Commission's Notice seeking information to use in preparing its report to Congress on universal service under the Telecommunications Act of 1996. NCTA is the principal trade association of the cable television industry in the United States, representing cable television operators serving over 80 percent of the Nation's cable television households and more than 100 cable programming networks. Through its Cable in the Classroom program. NCTA's members have brought news, public affairs, and educational programming to schools and libraries since 1989. Cable companies also pioneered distance learning services and, more recently, have begun to provide schools and libraries with high-speed access to the Internet.

Public Notice DA 98-2 (rel. January 5, 1998).

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

In the 1998 Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act. Congress directed the Commission to review its implementation of the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("1996 Act") relating to universal service and report to Congress on the extent to which the Commission's interpretations in certain areas are consistent with the plain language of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the 1996 Act. Congress seeks to determine whether the Commission's implementation of universal service is consistent with current law, fair to all parties, and promotes the principles of the 1996 Act. It has not directed a wholesale revision of the policies and rules established in the Universal Service Order or the extension of telecommunications regulation to Internet access or on-line services that have flourished in an unregulated environment. As Senator Stevens, the author of the provision requesting the review, has explained, his intent was not to impose fees on Internet services, but rather "simply [to ask] the FCC to review its policies to ensure that some telecommunications providers are not avoiding their responsibilities to preserve Universal Service."

NCTA's member companies deliver news, public affairs, and educational programming to schools and libraries. They pioneered distance learning services and, more recently, have provided schools and libraries with high-speed access to the Internet. Their provision of advanced services to schools and libraries will be enhanced by the regulatory structure adopted

Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998, Pub. L. 105-119, § 623 (1997) ("1998 Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act").

Statement of Senator Stevens (visited January 13, 1998) http://www.senate.gov/stevens/isp.htm.

by the Commission in the <u>Universal Service Order</u>. There, the Commission correctly concluded that Internet access was not telecommunications and that, consistent with the statutory mandate for competitive neutrality, all providers of advanced telecommunications and information services to schools and libraries should be eligible to receive universal service funds. These decisions are consistent with the "plain language" of the Communications Act, as amended. They also further the statutory directive to promote the development of the Internet in a free market "unfettered by Federal or State regulation," reiterated in legislation recently introduced by House Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman Tauzin and Representative White, and best effectuate the goal of ensuring that schools and libraries have access to the widest array of providers of advanced services.

Likewise, the Commission's conclusions as to the entities required to contribute to universal service and those eligible to receive support from universal service are consistent with and further the purposes of section 254 of the Communications Act. Reclassifying Internet access and other services as "telecommunications" in order to bring them within the contribution requirement, as urged by some, could unnecessarily subject these services to regulation as common carriers, a development that could devastate the growth of Internet services and prove to be highly unenforceable, with no concomitant consumer benefit.

I. THE COMMISSION'S INTERPRETATION OF 'INFORMATION SERVICE' AND 'TELECOMMUNICATIONS' IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAIN LANGUAGE AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF THE 1996 ACT

As part of Congress's general effort to update the Communications Act of 1934. The 1996 Act added numerous new definitions to the statute, including definitions for "information service," "telecommunications," and "telecommunications service." Congress has now asked the Commission to review. inter alia, its interpretation of the definitions of "information service" and "telecommunications service" added to the Communications Act of 1934 by the 1996 Act. The Commission's interpretation of these terms is faithful to the language and history of the 1996 Act, which borrowed heavily from the definitions used in the AT&T antitrust settlement. The Commission's specific determination that Internet access and on-line services are information services rather than telecommunications services? is also consistent with the broad consensus in Congress and elsewhere that these services should remain unregulated.

__

See, e.g., S. Rep. No. 104-23, at 9 ("The 1934 Act has not been rewritten since its original passage. Its provisions are no longer adequate in a world of competition . . .").

[&]quot;Information service" means "the offering of a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications, and includes electronic publishing, but does not include any use of such capability for the management, control, operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service." 47 U.S.C. § 153(20). "Telecommunications" means "the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received." Id. § 153(43). "Telecommunications service" is the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public; a "telecommunications carrier" is any provider of telecommunications services. Id. §§ 153(46), (44).

⁶ 1998 Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act at § 623(b)(1).

In the Matter of Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service. CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 97-157 at ¶83, 788-89 (rel. May 8, 1997) ("Universal Service Order").

A. Internet Access and On-line Services Are Information Services Because They Include the Capability for Generating, Acquiring, Processing, Storing, and Retrieving Information

Congress borrowed the terms "information services" and "telecommunications" from the Modification of Final Judgment ("MFJ") in <u>U.S. v. Western Electric Co., Inc.</u>8 Under the MFJ, voice storage and retrieval, electronic mail, and "gateway" services for obtaining access to information providers were all considered to be information services rather than telecommunications because they included the "capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information which may be conveyed via telecommunications." With the codification of these terms in 1996, the same is true under the Communications Act.

Of particular relevance in the instant inquiry, "information services" under the MFJ included not only services in which the telephone company controlled the content but also "services which would involve no control [by the telephone company] over the content of the information other than for transmission purposes." In this latter category were data processing services as well as voice storage and retrieval services and electronic mail. These services were considered "information services" because voice or data storage in this context was "a feature of

⁵⁵² F. Supp. 131 (D.D.C. 1982) (subsequent history omitted). <u>See H.R. Rep. No. 104-204</u>, Part 1, at 125 (1995) ("Information service' and 'telecommunications' are defined based on the definition [sic] used in the Modification of Final Judgment"); <u>cf. MFJ. §§ IV(J)</u>, (O). The Senate receded to the House on the definition of information service, while the House and Senate bills contained similar definitions of telecommunications. H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 104-458 at 116 (1996).

⁹ U.S. v. Western Electric Co., Inc., 714 F. Supp. 1, 11 (D.D.C. 1988).

U.S. v. Western Electric Co., Inc., 552 F. Supp. at 179 (emphasis supplied).

[the] service offering" trather than simply an "inherent aspect of the technology used in transmission or switching." Likewise, the provision of an information "gateway," an interconnecting data transport system, was considered to be an information service. The fact that these services involved, at some level, the transmission of information of the user's choosing did not render them telecommunications because what was being offered was the capability for generating, acquiring, storing, and retrieving information via telecommunications — the hallmark of an information service. To be sure, providers of these services today use telecommunications to deliver service to end users; as the statutory definition states, an information service provides capability for generating, etc. information via telecommunications.

U.S. Department of Justice, Response to Public Comments on Proposed Modification of Final Judgment, 47 Fed. Reg. 23320, 23334 (May 27, 1982).

U.S. Department of Justice, Competitive Impact Statement in Connection With Proposed Modification of Final Judgment, 47 Fed. Reg. 7170, 7176 (Feb. 17, 1982). Accord U.S. v. Western Electric Co. Inc., 627 F. Supp. 1090, 1110 (D.D.C. 1986) ("[a]s Ameritech itself has recognized, voice storage and retrieval services fall squarely" within the definition of information services). As the MFJ court subsequently noted, voice storage and electronic mail "are much alike," except that the former involves the storage of information as a voice message and the latter storage as a printed message. U.S. v. Western Electric Co., Inc., 714 F. Supp. at 20 n.82.

U.S. v. Western Electric Co., Inc., 673 F. Supp. 525, 597 (D.D.C. 1987), rev'd on other grounds. The court defined gateway functions to include data transmission, address translation, protocol conversion, billing management, and introductory information content. These same terms were used by Congress to describe "conduit" services that were not included within the prohibition on electronic publishing, see 47 U.S.C. § 274(h)(2), and then adopted by the Commission to describe the aspects of Internet access that are eligible for support. Universal Service Order at ¶ 444.

Thus, the MFJ court also specifically included voice mail and electronic mail within the definition of information services rather than telecommunications services. <u>U.S. v. Western Electric Co., Inc.</u>, 714 F. Supp. at 11 ("electronic mail . . . involves the generation or manipulation of content and for that reason should remain prohibited to the Regional Companies under any general restriction on content"); <u>id.</u> at 23 (permitting the BOCs to provide "voice"

That in and of itself, however, does not transform an information service into a telecommunications service.

B. The Commission's Interpretation of Telecommunications and Information Services Is Consistent With the Distinction Between Basic and Enhanced Services

The distinction between telecommunications and information services embodied in the 1996 Act and accurately reflected in the Universal Service Order is a logical extension of the dichotomy between "basic" and "enhanced" services articulated in the FCC's Computer II proceeding 157 and adopted in the MFJ. 167 In essence, Computer II. the MFJ, and the 1996 Act all distinguish between the provision of a passive telecommunications conduit and the provision of services that add value to the conduit (that "enhance" the conduit) through the addition of content or capabilities for "generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, or making available" content via telecommunications. 179

(continued from preceding page)

(continued from preceding page)

storage and retrieval services, <u>including</u>... <u>electronic mail</u>." notwithstanding the inclusion of these services within the definition of information services) (emphasis added).

The Commission defined basic services as "pure transmission capability over a communications path that is virtually transparent in terms of its interaction with customer supplied information." Amendment of Section 64.702 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations (Second Computer Inquiry), 77 FCC 2d 384, 420 (1980) (subsequent history omitted). Enhanced services are "services, offered over common carrier transmission facilities used in interstate communications, which employ computer processing applications that act on the format, content, code, protocol or similar aspects of the subscriber's transmitted information; provide the subscriber additional, different, or restructured information; or involve subscriber interaction with stored information." 47 C.F.R. § 64.702(a).

See U.S. v. Western Electric Co., 552 F. Supp. at 178 n. 198 ("enhanced services' . . . are essentially the equivalent of the 'information services' described in the proposed decree").

Since the enactment of the 1996 Act, the Commission has explained that all enhanced services fall within the statutory definition of information services. Implementation of the Non-

To the extent a person is providing information services, that person <u>per se</u> is not a telecommunications carrier. Rather, an information services provider uses telecommunications capacity to manipulate information or to deliver value-added or content based services. By adopting the telecommunications/information services distinction of the MFJ, the 1996 Act codifies the traditional distinctions between passive conduit and active manipulation and content delivery.

C. Classifying Internet Access and On-line Services as Information Services Is Consistent With the Broad Consensus that Internet Services Should Remain Unregulated

Providers of information services are not "telecommunications carriers" or "providers of telecommunications services." As the Commission correctly found, such entities are therefore not obligated to contribute to the maintenance of universal services; ¹⁸ nor are they subject to common carrier regulation applicable to telecommunications carriers. Moreover, neither Internet access services offered by cable operators nor the underlying cable network used to distribute them are subject to regulation as telecommunications offerings. ¹⁹

(continued from preceding page)

Accounting Safeguards of Sections 271 and 272 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, CC Docket No. 96-149, FCC 96-489 at ¶ 102 (rel. Dec. 24, 1996). Not all information services are enhanced services, however. See id. at ¶ 103 (explaining that enhanced services are limited to value-added services delivered over common carrier facilities, while an information service may be offered using non-common carrier telecommunications capacity).

¹⁸ Universal Service Order at ¶ 788.

In the 1996 Act, Congress amended the definition of cable service to include information services and other advanced services provided by cable operators. Section 301(a)(1) of the 1996 Act adds "or use" to the definition of cable service. As amended, that definition now includes "the one-way transmission of . . . other programming service, and subscriber interaction . . . which is required for the selection or use of such . . . other programming service." "Other programming service" means "information that a cable operator makes available to all

If providers of information services were classified as telecommunications carriers, numerous obligations in addition to universal service requirements would attach, including interconnection, access by persons with disabilities. Telecommunications Relay Service, and section 201 and 202 duties. Telecommunications requirements if Internet access service was characterized as local exchange telephone service. Telecommunications carriers are also required to obtain authority from State public service commissions to provide service and, once authorized to provide service, may be required to file tariffs and reports with the commissions. Burdening Internet access with these requirements would stifle the growth of the Internet and Internet-based services. There is no basis for extending the reach of common carrier regulation — designed initially for the railroads more than a century ago — to the decentralized, dynamic marketplace of Internet access services.

By contrast, the Commission's classification of Internet access service as an information service is consistent with section 230 of the Communications Act, also added by the 1996 Act.

⁽continued from preceding page)

subscribers generally." 47 U.S.C. § 522(14). The amended definition of cable service is intended "to reflect the evolution of cable to include interactive services such as game channels and information services made available to subscribers by the cable operator, as well as enhanced services." H.R. Conf. Rep. 104-458, at 169 (1996) ("Conference Report"). A cable system is not subject to common carrier requirements. 47 U.S.C. § 541(c) ("A cable system shall not be subject to regulation as a common carrier or utility by reason of providing any cable service.").

²⁰⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 251(a)(1); 47 U.S.C. § 255; 47 U.S.C. § 225; and 47 U.S.C. §§ 201, 202. While information service providers would likely be found to be non-dominant and not subject to common carrier obligations by the Commission, in order to obtain such a finding providers would have to engage in extensive proceedings.

²¹⁷ 47 U.S.C. §§ 251(b)(1), (2), and (5).

Section 230 establishes as the policy of the United States the continued development of the Internet and other interactive computer services and the preservation of the vibrant and competitive free market that presently exists for such services, unfettered by Federal or State regulation.²²⁷

The Commission's determination that Internet access services are not telecommunications is also consistent with recent congressional initiatives to shield the Internet from government regulation. House Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman Billy Tauzin and Representative Rick White, for instance, have introduced H.R. 2372, the Internet Protection Act of 1997, which would wall off the Internet from Federal and State regulation. As Representative White explained in introducing the bill, the Internet has grown and prospered because it has not been regulated by the federal government. These sentiments have been echoed by other members of Congress, and the Clinton Administration has likewise advanced a policy of self-regulation for the Internet and urged governments to refrain from imposing new

2: 47.11.C.C. 8.220(E)(1)

²² 47 U.S.C. § 230(b)(1), (2). <u>See also</u> 141 Cong. Rec. H8470 (daily ed. August. 4, 1996) (statement of Rep. Cox) ("we do not wish to have a Federal Computer Commission with an army of bureaucrats regulating the Internet").

^{23.} See H.R. 2372, 105th Cong. 1st. Sess. (1997) (purpose is to ensure that the development of the Internet and interactive computer services is unfettered by Federal and State regulation).

White Introduces Internet Protection Act (July 30.1997) http://www.house.gov/white/press.

²⁵⁷ 143 Cong. Rec. E513 (daily ed. March 19, 1997) (statement of Rep. Nadler) (arguing that Internet deserves highest protection from government intrusion): 143 Cong. Rec. S12078 (daily ed. Nov. 8, 1997) (statement of Sen. Abraham) (urging colleagues to fight to ensure that high technology industries, and Internet in particular, remain as free as possible from Government regulation and taxation).

and unnecessary regulations and bureaucratic procedures on electronic commerce.^{26/} The Universal Service Order is fully consistent with these Congressional and Executive Branch initiatives.

II. THE COMMISSION'S DECISIONS REGARDING THE ENTITIES REQUIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO AND RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSAL SERVICE ARE CONSISTENT WITH AND SERVE THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 254

Congress has also asked the Commission to review its decisions regarding the entities that are required to contribute to universal service under section 254(d) of the Act as well as those that are eligible under sections 254(e). 254(h)(1) and 254(h)(2) of the Act to receive specific Federal universal service support.²⁷⁷ These decisions are fully supported by the statutory language and legislative history of section 254, and best effectuate the goal of bringing advanced services to the nation's schools and libraries.

<u>First</u>, the Commission's determination that a non-carrier with a carrier affiliate or subsidiary is eligible to receive support under section 254(h)(1)(B) for services provided to schools and libraries^{28/} is consistent with the policy of defining covered entities to include their affiliates.^{29/} Under this interpretation, a cable company may claim eligibility for universal service support under section 254(h)(1)(B) for its provision of telecommunications or advanced services

A Global Framework for Electronic Commerce (July 1, 1997)

http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/New/Commerce.

²⁷ 1998 Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act at § 623(b)(3)-(4).

²⁸ Universal Service Order at ¶ 590.

See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. § 76.501, Notes 1-5 (defining existing ownership attribution standards for cable cross-ownership prohibition); 47 C.F.R. § 76.905(b)(4) (setting forth standards for

to schools and libraries by virtue of its ownership of or affiliation with a telecommunications carrier.

Second, the Commission correctly found that eligibility for universal service support for access to advanced services under section 254(h)(2) is not limited to "eligible telecommunications carriers," a decision supported by the statutory language and legislative history of subsection 254(h)(2)(A). Subsection 254(h)(2)(A) requires the Commission to establish "competitively neutral rules to enhance. . . access to advanced telecommunications and information services" for schools, libraries, and health care providers. This statutory demand for competitive neutrality prevents the Commission from limiting eligibility for universal service support to common carriers or their affiliates.

Competitive neutrality and the broad eligibility that follows from it also best effectuate the statutory goal of providing schools and libraries with access to advanced telecommunications and information services^{33'} in the most cost-effective manner.^{34'} In many circumstances, the most

(continued from preceding page)

identification of cable systems subject to effective competition); 47 C.F.R. § 76.1004 (defining common carriers to whom program access rules apply).

Universal Service Order at ¶ 592-593.

Congress intended to provide broad universal service support to schools and libraries. See, e.g., 141 Cong. Rec. S7980 (daily ed. 1995) (statement of Sen. Rockefeller) ("We intend to open the new worlds of knowledge and learning and education to all Americans, rich and poor, rural and urban. Browsing a Presidential library, reviewing the collections of the Smithsonian, studying science or finding new information on the treatment of an illness are becoming available to all Americans through new technologies in their homes or at their schools, libraries and rural hospitals. And our provision . . . is designed to make sure that these links do get made to our children and citizens.").

^{32/} 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(2)(A) (emphasis added).

³³ 47 U.S.C. § 254(b)(6).

efficient provider of access to advanced services may not be a telecommunications carrier. Cable operators, on-line service providers, and other entities that are not common carriers affiliates may be able to offer access with greater bandwidth capacity at a lower cost than access offered by telecommunications carriers. For example, cable modems can provide Internet access at speeds up to 50 times faster than conventional phone lines and significantly faster than the expensive high capacity ISDN lines currently being marketed by telephone companies. Similarly, the most experienced providers of advanced services, such as @Home, Roadrunner, Netscape, and America Online, are not affiliated with common carriers. Excluding such entities from eligibility for universal service support would effectively deprive schools and libraries of this valuable expertise.

The Commission's determination that non-telecommunications carriers are eligible for funding under subsection 254(h)(2)(A) is also supported by reference to the specific language of section 254. While section 254(e) of the Communications Act provides that "only an eligible telecommunications carrier designated under section 214(e) shall be eligible to receive specific Federal universal service support,"35/ this limitation does not prevent non-carriers from receiving support for providing schools and libraries with access to advanced telecommunications and information services mandated by section 254(h)(2)(A). Rather, section 254(e) is part of a

⁽continued from preceding page)

See 47 U.S.C. § 254(b)(1); Universal Service Order at ¶ 487.

⁴⁷ U.S.C. § 254(e). An eligible telecommunications carrier is one that, inter alia, provides those telecommunications services designated as universal service throughout a particular service area using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services. See 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1).

Universal Service Order at ¶¶ 592-595.

carefully-structured scheme intended to limit eligibility for the universal service support provided in connection with basic telecommunications services. Congress sought to ensure that only carriers willing to provide basic services throughout a given area would qualify for basic service support.

This limitation in section 254(e) is applicable solely with respect to support for these basic services, however, and is not relevant to establishing eligibility for support under section 254(h)(2)(A). The latter provision deals not with basic telecommunications services, but rather directs the Commission to establish "competitively neutral rules to enhance . . . access to telecommunications and <u>information services</u>" for schools, libraries, and health care providers." Consistent with the mandate for competitive neutrality and the fact that "access to telecommunications and information services" is different from "telecommunications," the Commission correctly found that eligibility for support made available pursuant to section 254(h)(2)(A) should not be limited to telecommunications carriers.³⁸

Because section 254(e) would otherwise permit only "eligible carriers" to receive universal service support in connection with the provision of telecommunications services.

Congress created a specific exception to that section so that <u>any</u> carrier could receive support for discounted telecommunications services provided to schools and libraries under section 254(h)(1)(B).³⁹⁷ By contrast, no such exemption is necessary in section 254(h)(2)(A) because this

^{37/} 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(2)(A) (emphasis added).

³⁸ Universal Service Order at ¶ 591.

See 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(1)(B)(ii) (any telecommunications carrier providing discounted telecommunications services may receive reimbursement "notwithstanding the provisions of [section 254(e)]").

provision is not limited to the provision of telecommunications services by telecommunications carriers.

Finally, the Commission's decision that non-telecommunications carriers such as cable operators and on-line service providers are eligible for funding under subsection 254(h)(2)(A) is in no way inconsistent with its decision that only telecommunications carriers and other providers of interstate telecommunications are required to contribute to universal service support. As the Commission explained, "[n]either telecommunications carriers nor non-telecommunications carriers will be required . . . to contribute to federal universal service support based on their provision of Internet access and non-telecommunications internal connections.

Thus, telecommunications carriers' contributions will not place them at a competitive disadvantage as providers of supported non-telecommunications services. "Moreover, as noted above, the effect of this decision is to give schools and libraries access to the widest array of providers of advanced telecommunications and information services. This, in turn, permits the most efficient use of universal service funds.

CONCLUSION

As set forth above, the Commission's definitions of "information service" and "telecommunications service" are entirely consistent with those added by the 1996 Act. The Commission's decision that non-telecommunications carriers are eligible to receive universal

Universal Service Order at ¶ 597.

service support for the provision of advanced information services to schools and libraries is consistent with and furthers the purposes of section 254.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard J. Symons Michelle M. Mundt Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C. 701 Pennsylvania Avenue. N.W. Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20004 202/434-7300 Daniel L. Brenner
Neal M. Goldberg
David L. Nicoll
1724 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/775-3664

Counsel for the National Cable Television Association, Inc.

January 26, 1998 DCDOCS: 121472.2 21q802!.doc)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michelle Mundt, hereby certify that on this 26th day of January 1998, I caused copies of the foregoing "Comments of the National Cable Television Association" to be sent to the following by hand delivery:

The Honorable William E. Kennard Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814 Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Gloria Tristani Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826 Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Harold Furchgott-Roth Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 822 Washington, D.C. 20554

Helgi Walker Office of Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 822 Washington, D.C. 20554

Rick Chessen
Office of Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street. N.W., Room 826
Washington, D.C. 20554

Meredith J. Jones Chief Cable Services Bureau Federal Communications Commission Room 918 2033 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554 The Honorable Susan P. Ness Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832 Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844 Washington, D.C. 20554

Thomas Power
Office of Commissioner William E. Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Anita Wallgren
Office of Susan P. Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Jane Mago Office of Commissioner Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844 Washington, D.C. 20554

Barbara Esbín
Associate Bureau Chief
Cable Services Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Room 918
2033 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

A. Richard Metzger, Jr. Chief Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 500 Washington, D.C. 20554

Lisa Gelb Chief Universal Service Branch Accounting and Audits Division Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8601 Washington, D.C. 20554

Melissa Waksman Attorney Universal Service Branch Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8601 Washington, D.C. 20554 Richard Welch Deputy Bureau Chief Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 500 Washington, D.C. 20554

Sheryl Todd Paralegal Universal Service Branch Common Carrier Bureau Federal Communications Commission 2100 M Street. N.W., Room 8611 Washington, D.C. 20554

Michelle Munset

ITS 1231 20th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Michelle Mundt

DCDOCS: 122222.1 (2mb2011.doc)